

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for detecting the presence or amount of an analyte in a sample is described. The method involves contacting the surface of the solid support with the sample and detecting analyte on the surface of the solid support. A

5 bioconjugate comprising a polypeptide conjugated to a polysaccharide is deposited on the surface of the solid support and the polypeptide of the bioconjugate can interact with the analyte. The analyte can be an antibody and the polypeptide can comprise an antigenic determinant of the antibody. By conjugating the polypeptide to the polysaccharide, the antibody can be detected at lower levels than if the non-
10 conjugated polypeptide were employed. Exemplary solid supports include membranes and assay plates (*e.g.*, ELISA plates). The polysaccharide is preferably a hyaluronic acid or a hyaluronic acid analogue. The method can be used to diagnose diseases such as SARS. Methods of making polypeptide-polysaccharide
15 bioconjugates are also provided.